

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
SUBSURFACE DRAIN

Landowner/user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

A properly operated and maintained subsurface drain is an asset to your property. This subsurface drain was designed and installed to dispose of excess subsurface water, intercept groundwater or to control the water table. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of the practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Avoid travel over subsurface drains by tillage equipment when the soil is saturated except at designated crossings.
2. Maintain the minimum design depth of cover.
3. Avoid any subsoiling operation that may disturb the drain or its filter/bedding materials.
4. Make sure that outlets are free flowing and small animal guards are in place.
5. Use fire resistant materials or otherwise protect outlets if burning is the prescribed method of weed control in outlet ditches.
6. Remove obstructions or blockages of surface inlets or drain outlets.
7. All settlement, sink holes, cave-ins or cracks in the soil adjacent to the drain should be investigated to determine the cause and immediately repaired.
8. Eradicate or otherwise remove all burrowing animals. Repair any damage caused by their activity.
9. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to any outlets or appurtenances.

Specific Recommendations for Your Practice
